

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 USIE-00 NASA-01 SSO-00 PA-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:EI

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

NEA:ADUBS (SUBS)

USIA:CSNOW (SUBS)

NASA:MR.FRUTKIN(SUBS)

NASA:JCLAPP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170718

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, IN, US

SUBJECT: USG ATTENDANCE AT SITE INAUGURAL

REF: NEW DELHI 8748, 9607 AND STATE 158892

1. NASA HAS RECEIVED ESSENTIALLY SAME WORD AS REPORTED IN NEW DELHI 9707 REGARDING REVISED AND FAR LOWER-KEYED PLANS FOR SITE INAUGURAL AUGUST 1 IN AHMEDABAD. INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE AT GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, WHO RECEIVED INFORMATION OVER SITE VOICE LINK WITH SPACE APPLICATION CENTER IN AHMEDABAD, CONFIRMED THAT INVITEES WILL BE LIMITED TO NASA, ISRO AND ALL INDIA RADIO.

2. REVISED INDIAN PLANS SUGGEST THAT SPOTLIGHT ON U.S. ROLE MAY BE EVEN DIMMER THAN PREVIOUSLY SEEMED LIKELY. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS IS JUST AS WELL. NASA UNDERSTANDS
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FROM ISRO THAT THERE WILL BE A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 31

WHICH NASA REPS CAN ATTEND IF THEY WISH; HOWEVER, PRESENT PLANS ARE FOR THEM TO ARRIVE AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE IS OVER.

3. NASA OFFICIALS RECEIVED INVITATIONS FROM ISRO ABOUT A WEEK AGO. WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN ATTENDANCE BY FRUTKIN (ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS) AND

JAFFE (DEPUTY ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF OFFICE OF APPLICATIONS), BUT STILL INCLINED ON BALANCE AGAINST ATTENDANCE BY NASA ADMINISTRATOR FLETCHER, SINCE WE ARE CURRENTLY DISCOURAGING VISITS BY SENIOR USG OFFICIALS. ADVANTAGE OF FLETCHER'S ABSENCE IS THAT THIS WOULD REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF PRESS MISREPRESENTATION IN U.S. ALONG LINES THAT U.S. IS HELPING INDIRA'S PROPAGANDA MACHINE BY SUPPORTING DIRECT BROADCAST TV. DISADVANTAGE IS THAT ISRO HAS ASSUMED FLETCHER WILL BE ATTENDING AND MAY REGARD HIS ABSENCE AS SLIGHT.

4. WE WOULD LIKE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ASAP AS NASA HOPES TO RESPOND BY EARLY NEXT WEEK AT LATEST. KISSINGER

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